India (AAI) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan indicating the name of the scheme, progress made so far, amount incurred and sanctioned on these projects are as per Annexure 1 and II.

[See Appendix 213 Annexure No. 17]

Upgradation of Airports in Tamil Nadu

4166. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade any airports in Tamil Nadu to international standards since in cities other than Chennai, the air traffic has increased recently for domestic and international journeys;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Besides Chennai airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken development of the existing airports at Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirrappalli in Tamil Nadu to international standards. At Coimbatore airport, extension of runway, strengthening of runway, taxiways and construction of isolation bay, grading of side strips. RESA, development and construction of storm water drain etc. have been completed. Construction of a new fire station CAT-IX, construction of E&M workshop and expansion of cargo complex are in progress.

At Madurai airport, construction of boundary wall in operational area, recarpeting and extension of runway, expansion of apron, additional link taxiway, isolation bay and associated facilities, new fire station CAT-VI etc. have been completed. Installation of ILS, construction of localizer building, glide path building, simple approach lighting system, construction of new integrated terminal building, installation of two aerobridges etc. are in progress.

At Tiruchirrappalli airport, strengthening and extension of existing runway, extension and strengthening of apron and allied works, construction of isolation bay and construction of new fire station etc. have ben completed. Works like construction of drain, new integrated terminal building complex, etc. are in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in ATF price

4167. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices for Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as annoucned in February by oil PSUs is getting cheaper in all cities for the second time this year;

(b) if so, whether the airlines have refused to pass on this benefit to passengers and surcharge remained unchanged at Rs. 1650 per ticket;

(c) if so. what are the main reasons for not passing on this benefit to the passengers by the airlines; and

(d) what action Government has taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (S«R1 PRAFUL PATEL): (a) State Government has been requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and align it with the "Declared Goods" rate of 4%. Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have since reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Rajasthan has also reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4% in case of the following:—

1. Airlines which establish a 'HUB' in the State.

2. Registered Flying clubs for their training flights; and

3. Airlines which for the first time connect cities of the State having no air service, the exemptionVould be limited to such flights only.

Government of Maharashtra has also announced reduction of Sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

(b) to (d) At present, scheduled domestic airlines are charging fuel surcharge varying between Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 2000/- per passenger per sector depending upon sector distance.

Domestic air fare are not regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

Profits of cement, steel and paper manufacturing companies

†4168. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE^FFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the continuous rise in prices for years there has also been a constant increase in the profits of companies engaged in the manufacturing of cement, steel and paper;

(b) if so, the details of increase in the profits of the big companies engaged in the manufacturing of the above products during the period from April, 2006 to December, 2007; and

(c) what is the additional production capacity established and the additional investments made during the above period in each of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discovery of ancient civilization in Rajasthan

†4169. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether relics of ancient civilization have been discovered in Rajasthan apart from Pilibanga and Aaeid;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.